

Interracial News Service

A DIGEST OF TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN HUMAN RELATIONS

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Segregation Walls Crumbling

In Arizona

On the basis of past decisions and present plans of independently acting boards of trustees, racial segregation in Arizona's schools will have been ended in all but two of Arizona's 14 counties by the beginning of the fall term of 1954—regardless of a pending State Supreme Court constitutionality.

By the fall of 1954, if the Supreme Court has not banned segregation, and hold-out school boards have not changed their minds, racial segregation will be practiced in less than a dozen school districts in Yuma and Pinal Counties.

The big break for exponents of racial integration came with decision of a majority of the Phoenix Union High Schools District Board to eliminate segregation with the opening of the 1953-54 scholastic year, next September. The Phoenix Union District was the last secondary schools district in the state to practice segregation. . . .

Neither school officials nor Negro leaders saw any likelihood of immediate mass shifting of Negro school attendance, and both felt that enforced integration would be the better way.

Elementary school board members explained their delay in integration of upper grades to be based not on reluctance, but on a practical approach to a complex economic and social problem. To the final solution they expected a study of a year's desegregation in the lower grades to contribute. The city is employing 70 Negro elementary school teachers, many or most of whom will be candidates for integration into the desegregated system.

The decision of the elementary schools board to desegregate on a two-step basis was unanimous. . . .

Majority members of the board poo-pooed suggestions of possible social reaction to such action taken on the local level. They pointed to the present apparent tranquillity in the school system of Tucson, the state's second largest city, which integrated its schools a year ago. (*The Christian Science Monitor*, July 24).

In Louisiana

Negroes, banding together as one, pulled a 90 per cent effective boycott . . . (in Baton Rouge, La.) and forced the end of absolute Jim Crow on the local buses of Baton Rouge, the state capital of Louisiana.

As a result of their unified fight, colored riders gained the right to sit

anywhere on buses except for the two side seats in the front. White may sit anywhere on local transit lines except the rear seat across the back of the bus.

The city council of Baton Rouge in an emergency action approved the above plan which it considers an acceptable arrangement in an effort to end a week-long boycott of the Baton Rouge Bus Co., by Negroes.

The trouble all started two weeks ago when the city council passed ordinance ending segregation indirectly on the city buses in keeping with a campaign promise made by the city's mayor went into effect. Under the new law Negroes could keep their seats in the front of the bus if they boarded before whites did, and would not have to move to the rear as seats were emptied. They also could sit up front if no rear seats were available.

Because of this law, the company's white bus drivers refused to take their posts. They went on a four-day strike. This resulted in an opinion by Fred S. Leblanc, state attorney general, that the city ordinance violated the state segregation laws. When this ruling was announced, the white bus drivers returned to work.

This in turn drove the city's Negroes, who make up two thirds of the bus line's passengers, into action. They refused to ride the bus lines, making these demands:

1. The company abide by the new city ordinance.
2. The company hire Negro bus drivers or the city issue a separate franchise to allow Negroes to operate their own bus lines.

To demonstrate their intentions, the Negroes then organized what they called a "fair lift" free automobile service to replace the bus service. Under this program about 150 automobiles have been utilized to transport them.

Considering the Negroes demands, there is no assurance that the city council's compromise action will end the boycott.

Through the United Defense League, which is operating the fair lift, Negroes have raised more than \$1,000 to support their cause. T. Roosevelt Smith is executive chairman of the Board of the UDL.

The Rev. T. J. Jemison, president of the UDL, said this action is not a boycott. He declared, "That's illegal. We're just not riding."

Aiding the Negroes in their fight were three service stations which sold gasoline

to the fair lift at wholesale prices. The fair lift also organized a system of stations or pickup points for passengers.

The city ordinance was passed March 11, 1953, but became effective only recently.

Bus drivers were angered because Negroes refused to get up from seats in the front and move to the rear when white passengers boarded.

Action by colored people here is believed to be the first of its kind by Negroes against transportation Jim Crow, especially within a city. (*The Saint Louis Argus*, July 3).

In North Carolina

A showdown between Bishop Vincent S. Waters and the die-hards in the Catholic church of North Carolina appeared imminent last week over the prelate's order banning segregation of the races in all Catholic churches in the Diocese of Raleigh.

In the latest order on the controversial question of the segregation of the races in churches the bishop said "There is no segregation of the races to be tolerated in any Catholic church in the Diocese of Raleigh."

The bishop's statement came while Catholics who desire the segregation of the races were still angry and non-cooperative over the bishop's order for the merger of the white and Negro Catholic churches in Newton Grove several weeks ago. Though oppositions mounted week after week on the merger order, the bishop steadfastly has refused to waver.

Some white members have boycotted services at the Church of the Redeemer since it was merged with the Negro Catholic Church in Newton Grove.

Instead of rescinding his order, the bishop now has extended it to include all churches in his diocese. (*Chicago Defender*, July 4).

New Strategy

Delegates to the annual convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People were told today their organization was not planning any legal moves that would expand or improve separate facilities for Negroes.

Thurgood Marshall, chief counsel for the association, said the only aim of its legal staff was to start court actions leading to total integration of Negroes and white persons in every community in the country. . . .

In a special message read to the eve-

ning session of the convention, Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York declared that the struggle for equal rights was not one for colored people only. He said it was a national responsibility. (*New York Times*, June 25).

"Texas" In Kansas!

The O. R. Burden Construction Company, a pipe line company, operating out of Texas, found out that it could not draw the color line in hiring employees in the Kansas City area. The Company, through its superintendents, have continuously stated that they would not work with Negroes.

When the Company started to build a pipe line through the Kansas City district, Laborers Union 663 of Kansas City, Missouri, and Laborers Union 1290 of Kansas City, Kansas agreed to split the men working on the job between the two unions.

On July 1, the company called Local 1290 for five men, and Local 1290 filled the order from the rotation plan used by the Union by sending out the next five men who were to be sent out to work. The five men sent were Negroes. They reported to work at the O. R. Burden job at Lees Summit, and superintendent for the company, stated that he did not want the Negroes because he would not mix his crews. He added that if he did there would be trouble.

Robert Powell told the superintendent that Local Unions 1290 and 663 refused to recognize any color line and that any man, regardless of his color, was entitled to work on any job. He further suggested that they employ the two men or the Union would refuse to furnish any other laborers, because the Union would not be a party to racial discrimination. He referred the superintendent to the no discrimination clause in the Union contract. The men were immediately hired and on July 22, four other Negroes were hired by the Union. (*The Call*, July 14).

Housing In Toledo

Segregation in Toledo public housing units will be ended not later than October 23, according to a consent decree signed last week by Federal Judge Frank L. Kloebe.

The order was approved by (Toledo Metropolitan Housing Authority) counsel and attorneys for four Negro families who filed action seeking an injunction against the authority to compel their admittance to vacant units in three projects now occupied exclusively by whites.

The order, signed by Judge Kloebe follows a long controversy over TMHA's announced intention of ending segregation. The policy was announced originally in January, but immediately became a heated community issue.

East Toledo whites opposed integration. The Toledo Board of Community Relations asked T.M.H.A. not to put the policy into effect until it could study the situation. Subsequently, the board said, on the basis of economics and principle, TMHA had no alternative but to proceed with the implementation of its policy.

The court action was instituted when the controversy dragged on and opponents of non-segregation resorted to various maneuvers to stifle the policy. . . .

Judge Kloebe held that there was no question of civil rights involved in the case, since TMHA had announced its intention to eliminate the practice. He did say, however, that it was his duty to see that the policy was carried out in reasonable time. Accordingly, he fixed the October date.

TMHA administers seven projects containing 1,400 units. In the past, three on the east side of the city's Maumee River—the stream divides the city—have traditionally been reserved for whites. Those on the west, with slightly more than 700 units, have been earmarked for Negroes. (*St. Louis Argus*, July 3).

Atlantic City Schools

(Atlantic City's) integrated school system was recommended as a model for other cities by Dr. John P. Milligan, local superintendent, in a speech in St. Louis recently.

Dr. Milligan was invited to address a human relations workshop at Washington University in St. Louis. . . .

He told the Missourians that the local school system has derived many benefits from integration of students of all races.

. . . Dr. Milligan told the human relations study group that no problem has arisen in the local school system as a result of a colored teacher's authority over white children.

Emphasizing how school integration saves the taxpayers money, the local superintendent pointed out to the Missourians that only one instead of two high schools, two junior high schools and two vocational schools are now needed here. (*Afro-American*, August 15).

ON THE OTHER HAND

In Illinois

The FBI today began a preliminary investigation of a race disturbance at a federal housing project after seven "Japanese mortar bombs" were confiscated from members of an unruly crowd and 30 persons were arrested.

The Chicago Crime Laboratory began tests on the "bombs" taken from the crowd . . . to determine how deadly they were.

Alfred F. Muench, regional attorney for the Public Housing Authority, (recently) requested FBI agent-in-charge Kline Weatherford to take a hand on the ground that \$700 damage had been done to federal property.

Weatherford said that he would assign agents to make a preliminary investigation to determine if the FBI had jurisdiction.

Some 750 policemen have been working in three shifts, trying to keep order at the Trumbull Parks Housing Project since Sunday night (Aug. 9) when the first crowd of 3,000 persons assembled to protest the movement of a Negro family into the previously "all-white" project.

The family was that of postal worker Donald Howard.

A six-man police detail guarded the lives of Howard and his family, with two officers detailed to sit on the front step of his home. . . .

Police reported that hoodlums strung wire across alleys in the neighborhood and strewed nail-filled boards on streets to hamper squad cars. All taverns in the neighborhood were closed after five steel workers were cut by flying glass Monday while driving home from work through the area. . . .

Commissioner O'Connor said the disturbances were "almost completely a juvenile picture." . . .

O'Connor said 10 per cent of Chicago's 7,000 policemen were being used to protect the Howards and other residents of the project. (*New York Post*, August 12).

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An Illinois FEPC bill, endorsed by the Republican governor and having the support of several civic organizations, last week was defeated in the senate, 29-13.

. . . Although Gov. William Stratton, a Republican, supported the bill, most of the Republicans in the senate voted to uphold a senate industrial affairs committee's recommendation that it be killed.

. . . The bill would have established an Equality of Employment Opportunity commission. This body would have worked to end discrimination in employment because of race, religion, color, national origin, or ancestry. . . . (*The Call*, July 3).

In Florida

Francis M. McHale, Jacksonville attorney, made it known this week that he has been hired by the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan to fight any suits aiming to break down racial segregation in the state of Florida.

He said that he is not a Klansman, and would be available for court appearances in Georgia and Alabama, too.

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Bill Hendrix, former Klan leader, who announced his disassociation with the Klan several months back announced here that 23 representatives from six states gathered in Columbus, Georgia, last weekend to form one strong Klan outfit.

Hendrix, who was just licensed as an evangelist in Leon county, described himself as imperial emperor of the new Klan.

He said that if the U. S. Supreme Court rules to kill the South's present segregation customs, that the Klan would be available to carry on a legal fight to preserve segregation, and to try to keep hot-heads from violent action.

He asserted that the new Klan would be a strictly educational organization. (*Jacksonville Chronicle*, June 26).

In New Jersey

The last remaining defendant in the case of the "Trenton Six" will be paroled from prison in November, the Parole Board announced today.

He is Ralph Cooper, 27, who was sentenced to 6 to 10 years in prison last

February when he entered a no defense plea to the charge that he helped kill William Horner, 72, on Jan. 27, 1948, in a \$35 holdup.

Cooper was one of six Negroes arrested for the murder. . . .

The case attracted national attention when all six were convicted and sentenced to die. A new trial was ordered by the Supreme Court, but there was a mistrial when the prosecutor became ill. At their third trial, Cooper and Collis English were convicted. James Thorpe, McKinley Forrest, Horace Wilson and John MacKenzie were acquitted. Another trial was ordered for Cooper and English, but the latter died in State prison.

Last February, Cooper appeared in court, accused all six of participating in the crime and was given a 6 to 10-year sentence. At that time the Princeton Committee for the Defense of the Trenton Six charged that Cooper had been coerced into a second false confession and that his reward was a minimum sentence that would permit a quick parole. (*New York Post*, August 11).

in Naval Installations

A Negro today said the Navy did not go far enough in modifying segregation policies for civilian workers in Southern Navy Yards.

Clarence Mitchell, Washington director of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People, said the new policy "could mean ending segregation in 30 days or 30 years. Hence, there will be no cheers for the Navy until the last Jim Crow sign comes down."

The Navy plans to announce soon a change in policy stating that common, rather than separate, facilities for civilian employes is the desired goal. Base commanders will be required to report periodically on their progress toward integration.

The old policy tells base commanders to follow "local customs" in determining racial policies among civilian employes. (*New York Post*, August 11).

CIVIL RIGHTS

Buried in Congress

The 83rd Congress closed its first session . . . this week without having enacted a single civil rights measure. Clarence Mitchell, director of the Washington Bureau of the NAACP, reported in a survey of congressional action.

"From the beginning when a Republican and Democratic coalition defeated an anti-filibuster rules change offered by Sen. Clinton Anderson (D., N. M.) by a vote of 70 to 21, the 83rd Congress made a determined and successful effort to avoid consideration of civil rights," Mr. Mitchell asserted. . . .

Senator Ives set hearings on FEPC legislation, but postponed them until January, 1954. No other committee of Congress definitely set hearings on civil rights bills.

The late Sen. Charles W. Tobey (R., N. H.) was studying anti-jim crow travel

legislation in his committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce and had agreed to hold hearings, but dates had not been set.

Although civil rights bills have been introduced in all major categories such as fair employment, anti-lynching, anti-jim crow travel and anti-poll tax, none of these is an administration bill.

Committee chairmen usually act on such legislation when the White House asks them to do so, Mr. Mitchell pointed out. (*The Afro-American*, August 15).

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A Resurrected Committee

President Eisenhower created a new fourteen-member Government Committee (Aug. 13) to prevent discriminatory employment practices in companies with Federal contracts.

The President issued an executive order that rescinded one by former President Truman. Under the new order, President Eisenhower will replace the present Committee on Government Contract Compliance with a new Government Contract Committee.

. . . The mission of the committee is to prevent discrimination against any employe because of race, creed, color or national origin. It is one area of the civil rights problem in which the President can act by exercising his own power to eradicate unfair practices. This power, however, is limited to work done for the Government under contracts that contain a fair employment practices clause. . . .

Negroes again will be members of the new committee. . . .

The essential difference between the old and the new committees is that the new unit will have definite operating functions. . . .

The new committee will:

Receive complaints of discrimination, forward them to the appropriate agency of Government for processing, and receive reports from these agencies on what has been done about the complaint.

Establish compliance machinery.

Stimulate educational programs aimed at eliminating the basic causes of discrimination.

Maintain cooperative relationships with state, local and non-governmental agencies.

In addition, it will have more public members than the old committee—nine instead of six—and more Government agency representatives—six instead of five. It is understood that although the order provided for eight public members, an amendment will raise this to nine. . . . (*New York Times*, August 13).

The matter in these pages is presented for the reader's information. It is not to be construed as reflecting the attitudes of the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations or of The National Council of Churches.

ON MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS

The question of race segregation in convention cities threw the hitherto peaceable assembly of the international convention of the Disciples of Christ, in Portland's (Ore.) public auditorium, into an uproar . . . (recently.)

When the clamor had subsided, the delegates had voted overwhelmingly to support a resolution to hold meetings "only where there are facilities in hotels and other places of meeting that are open to all participants without discrimination . . ." and to have arrangements committees "press unremittingly for the achievement of the goal of a completely non-segregated convention."

Gaines M. Cook, executive secretary of the convention, explained that tentative arrangements in Miami include use of the auditorium on a completely non-segregated basis, and an understanding no meetings will be held where there is racial segregation; also, that there is a hotel, "equal in accommodations to any in Portland" which is available for use of Negro delegates. "We've been trying to get better arrangements if possible," he added.

The . . . feeling that ran through the crowded auditorium in no instance supported segregation. The delegation was apparently divided into those who felt that to go on with the Miami arrangements would be a denial of the non-segregation principle, and those who felt that to stay out of the South entirely, because of discrimination—some of it compelled by law—would amount to discrimination against the southern Disciples. (*The Oregonian*, July 8).

WHO IS WELCOME

"If Jim Crow's gaunt specter eventually is to be driven from the temple," writes Howard Whitman, . . . "young members of our churches must do it, for they are the ones with the strength and the desire for fair play. And make no mistake—the fight already has begun. But progress is pathetically slow."

Whitman cites the case of two Negro children in Minneapolis who came to church and were admitted to the Sunday school. He reveals that nothing was said to them until they were leaving at which time a deacon of the church reportedly drew them aside and stated calmly, "I don't think you'd better come back here any more. This really isn't your church, you know."

In Portsmouth, Ohio, according to the author, a Negro woman prominent in civic affairs was invited to speak at a "white" church. However, two weeks before the event was to take place, it was called off. The minister of the church haltingly explained that "some of his people" objected and that two women threatened to quit the church if a Negro came to speak. Ironically enough, the occasion for which the speech had been planned was Brotherhood Week!

Whitman commented:

"That is the pattern with, of course,

the exception of a few churches here and there which are blazing a new trail by opening their doors to all people.

"It is a pattern whose devious design shows up in every section of our country. Segregation is not a problem of the deep South only. In 1948, a survey of six denominations embracing 17,900 revealed that only four and one-eighth (correct figure is 4.8) per cent included Negroes.

"A current survey of three denominations embracing 13,597 churches shows that nine and one-eighth (correct figure is 9.8) per cent include either Negroes or some other racial minority.

"As for the Negroes themselves, it is estimated that less than one per cent find themselves in churches where they worship side by side with their white brothers."

Next is cited the example of discrimination on the part of ministers, as told by Rev. Julian J. Keiser, minister of a racially integrated church. He said one of his colleagues in Chicago has a kid-glove technique of segregation. Whenever a Negro family presents itself at his church, he says "You'll be welcome here. Yes, indeed. But wouldn't you be happier in one of your own churches?"

Whitman asserted, "That's all it takes. They never come back."

Such a technique, it is ably pointed out, enables church people to deny that they were insincere in their welcome. . . .

Many of the nation's ministers reportedly feel that the young people will guide the churches out of the religious morass of segregation. . . .

The Rev. Julian J. Keiser of Chicago reported on the feeling of his church in trying to practice what it preaches. After a flurry of opposition which accompanied the opening of its doors to Negroes a new spirit pervaded the Warren Avenue Congregational church. "It seemed to come right in through those open doors," Mr. Keiser reveals.

He stated further, "People feel relieved that they are now practicing what they preach and what their Gospel has been preaching for so long. They feel clean, honest about their convictions. They know it was un-Christian to exclude

Negroes in the past, and they know they are doing right now. You can count more on Christian conscience than you realize."

In concluding his article, Whitman pointed out:

"The luxury of the gradual approach may not be available to us much longer. For we live in a world where colored people—the brown of India, the black of Africa, the yellow of Asia—are looking us over and appraising this product called democracy in which we are trying to interest them." (*The Call*, July 7).

SOUTH AFRICA

South African Prime Minister Daniel F. Malan has agreed to meet with representatives of the Colored People's National Union to discuss the vital question of the Colored franchise.

This may prove to be an historic meeting, for the rigidly pro-white government of Dr. Malan has broken off almost all contact with the non-white segments of the South African community.

The interview . . . (was) arranged for Aug. 14—five days before the joint sitting of both houses of Parliament is due to be resumed and a vote taken on the bill removing Colored voters from the common voters' roll.

George Golding, president of the union which claims a membership of 40,000, (said, among other things) . . .

"We feel the time has come to make a direct approach ourselves to discuss the whole question with Dr. Malan and explain our point of view."

The Teachers' Educational and Professional Association, a moderate Colored organization to which many members of the CPNU belong, has issued a memorandum protesting not only against the

highly controversial proposal to validate the Separate Representation of Voters Act which takes Coloreds off the common electoral roll, but also against the suggestion that the qualifications of Colored voters should be raised.

The memorandum states: "We have only one suggestion—that all existing educational and economic qualifications be abolished and adult suffrage introduced as for whites." . . .

Some Colored persons who are skeptical of the approach to Dr. Malan are apprehensive that the union may be tempted to bargain with the government or extract some promise from them in return for agreeing to an alteration in Colored franchise . . .

Some Nationalist MP's (Members of Parliament) are saying that concessions will eventually have to be made to Colored voters, but that such concessions are impossible while the Colored people share the electoral roll with whites.

The concessions being mentioned are the extension of the Colored franchise to the northern provinces of South Africa . . . the enfranchisement of Colored women and the right of Colored people to be represented by Colored MP's.

Such radical concessions, say the Nationalists, would sway enough right-wing members of the opposition United Party to vote with the Nationals and thereby create the necessary two-thirds majority of both houses needed to constitutionally pass the Separate Representation of Voters Act. (*Christian Science Monitor*, Aug. 6)

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THE TEST OF A
DEMOCRACY IS ITS
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